



*Froxfield and Privett Parish  
Magazine*



*January 2025*



Wishing everyone a very happy, healthy, peaceful and fulfilling year in 2025.

In your churches we are here for each other in all the highs and lows of life.

With love and prayers from the clergy and community of the churches of Froxfield with Privett.

Canon Susie Collingridge



Donations for the Reverse Advent Calendar  
**Froxfield and Privett Parish Information**

# Benefice Worship

From the rising of the sun to its setting my name is great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts.

Malachi 1.11

## Sunday 5 January: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas/The Epiphany

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said), Steep  
10am The Ten AM (less formal worship), Steep  
10am Parish Communion, High Cross

## Sunday 12 January: Plough Sunday

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said), Stroud  
10am Parish Communion, Steep

## Sunday 19 January: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said), Steep  
10am Parish Communion, High Cross

## Sunday 26 January: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said), Stroud  
10am Parish Communion, Steep  
11am Morning Prayer, Froxfield Green

## Sunday 2 February: Candlemas (Gold or White)

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said), Steep  
10am The Ten AM (less formal worship), Steep  
10am Parish Communion, High Cross

(White) January 2025

Steep: All Saints, GU32 2DD | Stroud Church: GU32 1AT  
 High Cross: St Peter's, GU32 1EQ  
 Froxfield Green: St Peter-on-the Green, GU32 1DQ  
 Privett: Holy Trinity, GU34 3PE

Welcome to a variety of services across our benefice

For further information, request our weekly emailed news sheet at

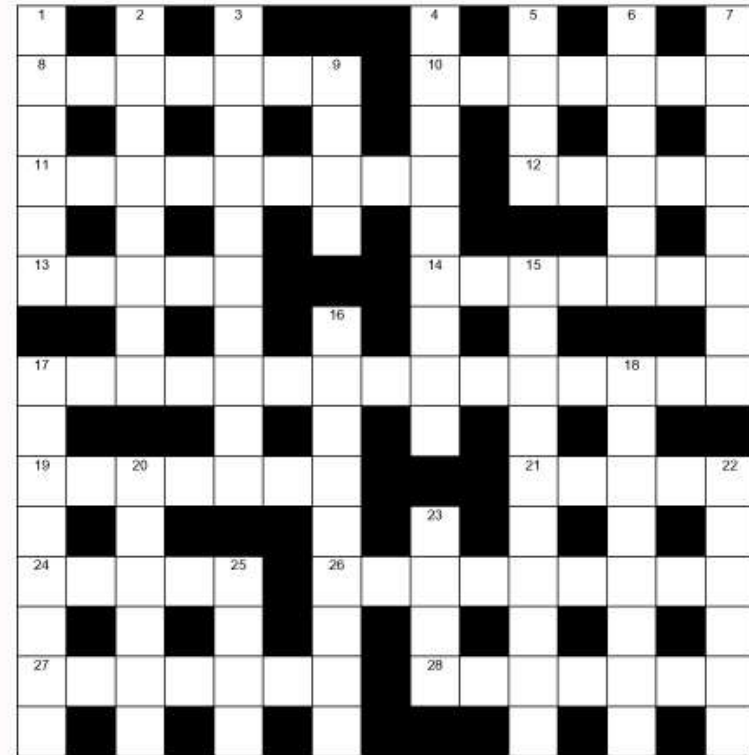
[steepfroxfordprivett@gmail.com](mailto:steepfroxfordprivett@gmail.com),

or visit our website [www.steepfroxford.com](http://www.steepfroxford.com)

Bin Days Thursday Unless Otherwise Indicated

3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday	9 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>
Refuse Bin	Recycling & Glass Collection	Refuse Bin	Recycling & Glass Collection	Refuse Bin

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### Across

- 8 Improve the status of something or someone
- 10 Former monetary unit of Greece
- 11 Free to do whatever one chooses, without responsibilities
- 12 Having little importance
- 13 A means of comparing two or more quantities
- 14 Strolling
- 17 'O I can't mind a tone' (anag).
- 19 An American marsupial
- 21 Alcoholic drink made from fermented apple juice
- 24 Outdo
- 26 Feeling sentimental about times past
- 27 Tough grass used to make ropes and good-quality paper
- 28 Machines for converting energy into force and motion

### Down

- 1 A person or thing that reduces shock or forms a barrier between adversaries
- 2 One who believes it impossible to know if God exists
- 3 Types of pen
- 4 Hormone that increases blood circulation and breathing
- 5 Peaceful
- 6 A prison in Singapore
- 7 A herb of the daisy family
- 9 The Greek god of love
- 15 A moulded dessert made with flavoured milk and cornflour
- 16 A racket sport played with a shuttlecock
- 17 Districts under the pastoral care of bishops
- 18 Poor, needy
- 20 Inhabit; engross oneself in
- 22 Alcove
- 23 E.g. Man or Wight
- 25 An ancient stringed instrument



January 2025 and Froxfield Choir enters its 53<sup>rd</sup> year! What an achievement! As I write this I can't comment on the 2024 Privett Carol Service as it hasn't happened yet, but I do know we will have more singers than ever before and I hope that, as ever, we will have an amazing congregation despite Holy Trinity not being the warmest church

in the benefice!

We had a fantastic 2024. A capacity audience enjoyed our Duke Ellington's Sacred Concert in June and after the summer break we prepared for our autumn concert at St Peter's High Cross on 23 November. This was the evening Storm Bert was making its presence felt – especially up here at the top of the hill - but still they came - our loyal and supportive audience. Approximately 85 people left the comfort of their fires and came to listen to us sing. It was a lovely concert and, accompanied by SouthDowns Camerata, Matthew Cooke on the organ and soprano and alto soloists from London, we sang Haydn's Little Organ Mass and Pergolesi's Stabat Mater.

On behalf of Froxfield Choir I would like to say a huge thank you to our band of loyal followers – you are quite simply wonderful and your presence is hugely appreciated. Without your support we would not be able to stage concerts with professional musicians or perform to what we believe to be a high standard.

We hope we will see you in 2025 – we are delighted to have been invited to sing Choral Evensong at All Saints Steep on Sunday 2 March as part of their 900<sup>th</sup> celebration – what an honour. We will then commence rehearsals for our annual concert at Holy Trinity Privett, this year on Saturday 21 June. Accompanied by West Forest Sinfonia we will be singing Brahms' Requiem – it promises to be a great evening.

May we wish you a very happy 2025 and once again, our grateful thanks to you all.

**Sue Clegg**  
**Chair of Froxfield Choir**

## Drop- In



The Froxfield with Privett Drop – In takes place on the second Saturday of the month at Froxfield Village Hall between 10:30 and 12:00. It is an opportunity to experience a warm welcome and meet with friends and neighbours whilst enjoying a slice of cake and a cuppa (£2 minimum donation ) and in a warm space! Children and dogs (accompanied by a responsible adult) are very welcome. Come for a few minutes or come for the duration - it's your choice!

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Susanna Shepherd has decided to stand down from her role running the Drop–In at Froxfield Village Hall from January. I'm sure everyone in the communities here in Froxfield and Privett would want to join me in saying thank you to her for her work over the last twelve months or so. Without people stepping up to volunteer as Susanna did, many of the things we love about living in our villages wouldn't happen.

The PCC has decided to form a rota of volunteers to continue the work that first Joanna, and later Susanna, have put into establishing the Drop - In and making it a success. Those on the rota would not have to commit to being there every session. It goes without saying that if we had enough people then volunteers may only be called on once or twice a year. Fiona Heaton and I will be running the first session in 2025 on January 11<sup>th</sup>.

Please do get in touch if you think you can help: Suzanne Tong: 01730 260 430 or [Tongventhams@gmail.com](mailto:Tongventhams@gmail.com)

See you on the 11<sup>th</sup>!

## Cover

This month's cover picture was taken by Edward Sadler of a frosty Cotoneaster in his garden. Thanks Edward. It will make Jeanette Fryar very happy, being a leading expert in Cotoneasters. Yes, there is such a thing!

## Solution to December Crossword Puzzle

**Across** - 1 Guard, 4 Thread, 10 Neutron, 11 Paddock, 12 Rote, 13 Snare, 14 Cede, 17 Underdeveloped, 19 Multilaterally, 22 Laic, 23 Agile, 24 Oval, 27 Proverb, 28 Tantrum, 29 Lengthen, 30 Sedan.

**Down** - 1 Generous, 2 Abutted, 3 Dark, 5 Hyperventilate, 6 Ends, 7 Diocese, 8 Ankle, 9 Unintelligible, 15 Wrath, 16 Dowry, 18 Cyclamen, 20 Unicorn, 21 Levered, 22 Lapel, 25 Lent, 26 Onus.

### Who's Who in the Church

(01730 is the telephone exchange unless otherwise stated)

**Priest-in-Charge & Area Dean (Petersfield):** Canon Dr Susie Collingridge (624245); susie.collingridge@gmail.com

**Assistant Curate:** The Revd Sue Jones (624245); susan.jones1410@gmail.com

**Retired Clergy (PtO):** The Revd Joanna Farrell (828450)

**Reader (PtO):** Mrs Caroline Hilton (263460)

**Lay Pastoral Assistant:** Lindsay Clegg (827505)

### **Churchwardens:**

Rob Hollis (07368 515108)

### **Benefice Administrator:**

AnneGrove [www.steepfroxford.com](http://www.steepfroxford.com) / steepfroxfordprivett@gmail.com

**Gift Aid (GA) and Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) Officers:** Ian Hughes (n.ianhughes@btinternet.com/828344) **(GA); and** Christine Stephens (Christine@tcfk-stephens.co.uk) **(PGS)**

### **Social media:**

Website: <https://steepfroxford.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/steepfroxfordandprivettchurches>

## Privett Church

Did you know.....

- that you can hire Privett Church - for your celebratory events, as well as for charity events?
- that you can commission the bells to be rung for your celebration whether held at the church or while you are listening nearby?
- that the Church is owned and managed by The Churches Conservation Trust.
- that the Church is still consecrated?
- and that the Churchyard belongs to Froxfield and Privett PCC?

It has been an exciting few years at Holy Trinity, Privett. The village held their Jubilee and Coronation Celebrations at the Church. Both very successful community events, with such a large, magnificent space the whole village and friends could attend. 2023 saw the return of our Flower Festival, raising funds for the Church to support the CCT with the Church maintenance.

2024 saw a great deal of activity with more bookings, as well as the annual concert from Froxfield Choir, always a great performance to a packed house.

And what celebrations we had for local residents.

A 50th Wedding Anniversary, the Church beautifully decorated in gold and with the Band with No Name playing.

Dominic and Christie's wedding ceremony, and reception. A beautiful and joyful celebration, with the bells ringing the Bride in and the Bride and Groom out of the Church. An amazing day, a mention in the Daily Mail and Vogue for that one!

Then there was a double 80th Birthday Lunch, with Zulu dancers for entertainment. The bells were commissioned for another 80th birthday, ringing out as the guests were arriving to the party in a local garden. Another hiring was for making a film, and recently a wonderful performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream performed by the very talented This is My Theatre group.

The regular services took place, these being Trinity Sunday Service and the Christmas Carol Service with Froxfield Choir.

## Privett Church continued

Private bookings are important for generating funds for the general running and upkeep of the Church.

Over the years the wooden bell frame and the bell ropes have been getting damaged by rainwater coming in. We are hoping this will be sorted by directing the water out, rather than pouring in. Of course, this will be a costly maintenance job especially as it requires scaffolding. Money from the commissioned ringing and from donations will be going towards the cost. In 2024 a Fete was held in the Church and Churchyard. Thanks to all the locals running the stalls producing lots of cakes to sell and for refreshments, the total sum raised at the fete was £1450. It was an enjoyable afternoon with a great attendance.

The total raised in 2024 towards these works, is in excess of £3000.

We are pleased that The Privett Centre has had a complete face lift and will a thriving hub for a variety of courses and pop up suppers, run by Amanda from Sage & Season. The centre is also available to hire separately or as an addition to hiring the church. A bonus for the hirers who require, a kitchen, toilets and running water.

See the website [theprivettcentre.co.uk](http://theprivettcentre.co.uk) and [sageandseason.co.uk](http://sageandseason.co.uk)

What's to come? Some exciting events have been booked in already.

May - Choral Evensong with Portsmouth Cathedral Choir

June - Froxfield Choir Concert

2 x weddings one 2025 and one in 2026. (to hold your wedding ceremony in the Church links to Privett are required and special permission has to be obtained.)

This is My Theatre will be returning, as in 2024 there will be an opportunity for supper in the Privett Centre before the play.

The fundraising for the works to be done to the tower are still ongoing. For further details of how to donate or details for commissioning the bells for your special occasion, email [teresa.mbrown2011@gmail.com](mailto:teresa.mbrown2011@gmail.com)

We are very lucky to have three community facilities available to hire in the Parish.

Holy Trinity Church, Privett, such a fantastic facility in our Parish. Ideal for larger events.

## Reverse Advent Calendar – thank you

At the time of writing this, mid-way through December, we can already see that there has, once again, been an excellent response by way of donations of food and toiletries to the Petersfield Foodbank made through the Reverse Advent Calendar in the church. The steady flow of donations from the village and from Froxfield School has meant that we have made frequent trips to take all the gifts into the Foodbank, where the staff have been very pleased to receive such a wonderful contribution to their Christmas hampers and also for their general stocks – this will help them maintain supplies through the early part of the year. Once again this year we are also grateful to those in the village who have made money transfers directly to the Foodbank\*, or have contributed through the scheme which Howard so generously and willingly operates at the village shop. Cash donations are used by the Foodbank to provide vouchers for buying fresh food in the town. Throughout the year we keep a box in the church for food donations to the Petersfield Foodbank, so feel free to call in to the church at any time to add to that collection. Or perhaps donate food through Howard's scheme, which also operates throughout the year. Or even consider setting up a monthly money transfer to the Foodbank\* – their bank account details were given in December's Parish Magazine.

**Rob Hollis – Churchwarden**  
**Edward Sadler – School Governor**

\*Just a reminder: the Petersfield Foodbank is a charity – so you can Gift Aid money donations to make them even more valuable: see their website: [pactfoodbank.org.uk](http://pactfoodbank.org.uk) for details or get in touch with one of us.



On Tuesday 10th December we held our Christmas meeting at Privett Village Hall, which was very well attended. Our speaker for the evening was Mark Porter, who is the Hampshire County Organiser and South East Regional Chairman of the National Gardens Scheme. Mark gave us an excellent presentation showcasing the work of the NGS, and in particular the huge amount of money raised each year (£3,403,960 in 2023) for many charities, including Marie Curie and Parkinson's UK. He also highlighted a number of gardens in Hampshire, which were well worth a visit! After Mark's presentation we served our traditional Christmas fare of mulled wine and mince pies to all those attending. We have a visit to Mark's stunning winter garden in Itchen Abbas organised for Tuesday 11th February at 1.30pm for which Pippa Chapman (07803 906312) is taking names of people wishing to attend, although as I write this report I know it is almost sold out.

The Committee made the decision some time ago to have Zoom as the medium for the January meeting each year, so that members have the chance to stay warm and dry for the presentation. Our Zoom meeting for 2025 is on Thursday 16th January at 7.30pm, with the talk given by Caroline Holmes on the subject of 'Monet's Giverny'.

With best wishes to everyone for a successful gardening year in 2025!

**Sue Kinlochan**

### **Upbeat and of good cheer!**

Following last month's good news of timely new volunteer Trustees, stepping up to join the Village Hall Committee, there is already a positive impact to celebrate and more activities to announce for parishioners to engage in.

On 30th November, the Christmas wreath-making event was very popular and raised over £700 for the hall. A huge thank you to Libba Morrison for taking the lead and to all who supported the event.

On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December, despite the power cut, 13 volunteers arrived to tackle some much-needed maintenance tasks. There was a positive energy and willingness to make this a monthly event and work through the long to-do list. If you can help, please keep an eye out for the dates in this publication (see below for Jan and Feb) and on the Village Hall noticeboard and website in due course. Big thanks to Ted for his efforts in pulling this together and to all those who supported it.

Over the coming weeks/months, the website will be undergoing improvements, making it more accessible, up to date, mobile-friendly and providing more information about the hall and the clubs who use it. Our thanks to Jody Ashfield for tackling this and for already fixing our problem with the hall enquiries email address.

My thanks to all the Trustees for their support through a challenging year and to the Primary School, Pre-School and other regular users. Wishing you all a very Happy New Year and looking forward to a far more successful year for the hall in 2025 and beyond.

#### **Help needed – PR and marketing communications.**

Do you, or someone you know, have skills/experience in writing PR communications, such as this Parish Magazine and other event marketing materials? Having some support to write, or more likely to edit and improve drafts for publication and marketing material for periodic fundraising events, would be a great help. You wouldn't need to be a Trustee, just to volunteer some time. To discuss further please contact me at [robertshepherd.parish@gmail.com](mailto:robertshepherd.parish@gmail.com).



## Froxfield Village Hall - Working Party Report

The maintenance working party went ahead as planned on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> December in spite of the foul weather and a power outage.

In all we had responses from 31 people regarding volunteering, although quite a few couldn't make it this time due to other commitments, 13 people attended for anything between 1 and 4 hours.

Jobs tackled included: -

- Reposition and pin ceiling tiles
- Clean windows inside and out
- Repaint porch ceiling
- Prep surface in kitchen and bar for painting
- Tile bar sink
- Replace kitchen door stop and repair damaged wall
- Refit clear screen in front of servery/bar
- Straighten up kitchen cabinet doors
- Bulb planting along the south side of hall – should look wonderful in the spring

Travis Perkins kindly sponsored materials, including paint, brushes and safety equipment. A big thank you to Richard McKee, Petersfield branch manager, for being so helpful with organising this.

General feedback was that this was a success, both for getting maintenance work done for the hall and also as a social meeting for the community. Much tea, coffee, cake and many bacon sandwiches were consumed.

It was agreed amongst the volunteers that this should be repeated on a monthly basis and that the second Sunday of each month was suitable.

Thank you to all who turned up on the day in spite the adverse conditions.

**Froxfield Village Hall:** with a main hall, and the smaller Jubilee room as well as changing facilities.

## Upcoming Events

### January 2025

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> **Walk** off your Christmas excesses! 9.30am at Froxfield Village Hall for coffee and cake before setting off to Privett for soup and a roll. Adults £7 Children £3. Check out the website or email

teresa.mbrown2011@gmail.com

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> **Drop-In** 10.30am - 12 noon. Meet over a cup of tea/coffee and a slice of cake

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> **Volunteer Maintenance** activity (open between 9am-1pm). Join in when you can and enjoy free cake and help maintain the hall. Contact Ted Stephens on 01730 266529

### February

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> **Drop-In** 10.30am - 12 noon. Meet over a cup of tea/coffee and a slice of cake

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> **Volunteer Maintenance** activity (in the **afternoon** – time TBC). Join us for free cake and help maintain the hall. Contact Ted Stephens on 01730 266529

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> **Country Music Club** 8pm. Tickets are £10 on the door, Under-14's free. Licensed bar, tea & coffee available. Filled rolls & hotdogs also available for 80p

**Robert Shepherd, Chair of Trustees**

**Privett Village Hall** is a smaller venue, again a great facility. Both village halls run community events, some annual and some one off. Please support these when you can they help to fund the hall, as well as giving the community a chance to get together.

**Parish Event** in aid of Froxfield Village Hall –

WALK - SATURDAY 4TH JANUARY.

from Froxfield Village Hall to Privett Village Hall.. Starting with Coffee & a Brownie/Croissant at Froxfield VH finishing with Homemade Soup at Privett VH. Cost £7 for adults £3 for Children. Dogs on leads welcome. Please book in advance for catering purposes. If you don't wish to walk there is an option to come and join in for lunch. You can book online via Froxfield Village Hall website.



Today I attended the school's annual Nativity Service in St Peter's High Cross. As ever I was left feeling moved by the retelling of the birth of Christ in the stable more than 2000 years ago, by the way this age old and so familiar story unfolds before the congregation of eager parents and grandparents - those watching their tiny child in the preschool make their first entrance onto a stage and those whose child has grown old enough now to take on one of the traditional speaking parts - Mary, Joseph, the Angel Gabriel, a wise man, even the Donkey - all the grownups anxious to see and hear the tale. Today's congregation was so well rewarded by this latest, excellent performance by all the children of Key stage 1 of Froxfield CE Primary and Preschool.

The play was opened by the children from the preschool - who range from age 2 to 4 years old - they sang and signed with Maketon Sign Language "We wish you a Merry Christmas". It was wonderful to see the confidence and joy these very small people had in singing so clearly in front of the chancel steps - I was standing at the back of the church, and I could hear every word.

Confidence and joy remained a theme of the whole production, from the outstanding narrators telling the story from the pulpit, the glittering angels, the grumpy innkeepers, the frightened shepherds and their sheep, the magnificently dressed wise men, to Mary, Joseph and their loyal donkey - everyone played their part with such confidence, conviction and obvious delight.

Meanwhile hidden from view but nonetheless completely engaged in the performance, were all of the Key Stage 2 children, whose lovely singing from behind the stage rang all around the church. They sang out the Christmas message of peace and love embodied in the baby Jesus - soothing balm to adult ears in these troubling times across the world.

As well as learning lines and when their cue is, there is so much invaluable learning taking place when children are involved in a school production like the one we saw today. The participants develop the confidence to speak up, to speak so their voice can be heard; they learn to manage their nerves; to work collaboratively - understanding that everyone's role, greater or smaller, contributes to the success of the whole.

In Collective Worship last half-term, the children were thinking about the value of generosity. They talked about what it means to be generous with their time, actions and words and they linked this to the generosity shown by the innkeeper in the Nativity story. They also talked about showing generosity through donating to the needy in our local society via the contributions being made to the Petersfield Foodbank via the Reverse Advent Calendar. My husband Rob and I regularly collect the donations and deliver them to the food bank. The volunteers at the food bank have been so touched by the generosity of everyone and ask us to pass on their thanks to all who have contributed to this good cause.

School still has a week to go before the end of term and the staff will have just 4 days to get ready for their Christmas - on behalf of all the governors I'd like to wish everyone who makes Froxfield School such a special place a very happy, peaceful and joyful Christmas.

**Gilly Hollis: Chair of Governors**